Manitoba Firearm Accidents Report

Hunting and Non-Hunting 1987

Hunter and Firearm Safety Program

Manitoba
Natural Resources

88-04526/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please contact us at 1495 St. James Street, or phone 945-6644.

SUMMARY

During the 1987 calendar year there were 25 firearm related accidents, twelve of which were self-inflicted. There were three fatal accidents. One was alcohol related and involved a person illegally hunting ducks, while another occurred during the licenced firearm deer season. The third fatality occurred in a home and was caused by "horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded".

Nine of the twenty-five accidents were not directly related to hunting. However, in 16 incidents the shooter was actively pursuing a bird or animal. Seven involved licenced hunters during an open season and nine involved illegal hunting or small game hunting where licences weren't required.

Eighteen of the twenty-five reported accidents occurred at a distance of less than ten yards. Five of the twenty-five accidents involved graduates of a Hunter Safety Program.

The Manitoba Hunter Safety Course was completed by 2,953 students in 1987. Some 103,565 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of the 103,565 students who graduated from the program, only 121 have later become involved in accidents.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

	1986	1987
Victim out of sight of shooter.	2	3
Victim moved into line of fire.	2	1
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.	1	1
Victim mistaken for game.	3	2
Shooter stumbled and fell.	3	3
Using firearm as club.	0	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object.	2	5
Loaded firearm in vehicle.	4	2
Firearm fell from insecure rest.	1	0
"Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded".	2	2
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm.	1	0
Loading.	0	0
Unloading.	1	0
Defective firearm.	3	1
Cleaning Firearm	2	0
Loaded firearm in the home.	3	4
Accidental discharge.	0	0
Ricochet.	2	1
Unknown.	0	0
	32	25

SYNOPSIS OF 1987 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

	1986	1987
Total Number of Accidents	**32**	**25**
Fatal	4	3
Non-fatal	28	22
Hunting Legally During Regular Season	**6**	**7**
Fatal	1	1
Non-fatal	5	6
Treaty Indian Hunting	**4**	**0**
Fatal	3	0
Non-fatal	1	0
Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegally Hunting	**5**	**9**
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	5	8
Non-hunting Accidents	**17**	**9**
Fatal in the home	0	1
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	0	0
Non-fatal in the home	9	4
Non-fatal in a vehicle	1	1
Non-fatal outside the home	7	3
Shooter Unknown	**0**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
Accidents Involving Shooter 18 years and under	**11**	**15**
All Types of Hunting	**5**	**8**
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	4	8
Non-hunting	**6**	**7**
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	6	6

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	1986	1987
.22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	**15**	**13**
Fatal	1	1
Non-fatal	14	12
Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	**8**	**4**
Fatal	3	1
Non-fatal	5	3
Shotgun	**6**	**6**
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	6	5
Hand Gun	**2**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	2	0
Pellet Gun	**1**	**2**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	2
Unknown	**0**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	1986	1987
0 to 10 yards	22	18
10 to 50 yards	5	2
50 to 100 yards	1	3
over 100 yards	3	2
Distance Unknown	1	0

OCCURRENCES

	1986	1987
Time of Day		
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	3	0
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	0	1
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	1	3
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	6 **	4
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	7 *	5 **
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	7 *	8 *
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	5	2
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	3	2
Unknown	0	0
By Day		
Sunday	4 *	4
Monday	5 *	6
Tuesday	5	3 *
Wednesday	2 *	0
Thursday	4	3
Friday	3 *	4 *
Saturday	9	5 *
By Month		
January	2	0
February	1	0
March	3	2
April	3 *	4
May	0	2 *
June	4	2
July	1	1
August	1	0
September	4	2
October	7 **	6 *
November	4 *	5 *
December	2	1

* Indicates one fatal

SUMMARY OF 1987 ACCIDENTS

The following summary of accidents related to the use of firearms serves as a useful lesson for everyone who enjoy shooting sports. Hunter Safety Instructors and their students should make a special effort to study each incident and analyze how the accident occurred. In most cases, one or more of the 10 commandments of Hunter Safety were violated. Don't let you or your friends be the cause of an accident recorded in next year's report.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTER SAFETY

1. **WATCH THAT MUZZLE! Carry your gun safely; keep safety on until ready to shoot.**

2. **TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.**

3. **UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE, take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to shooting area.**

4. **BE SURE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS, and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.**

5. **BE SURE OF TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL TRIGGER; know identifying features of game you hunt.**

6. **NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT; avoid all horseplay.**

7. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN; never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.**

8. **NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER; at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.**

9. **STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY, beyond reach of children.**

10. **AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES before or during shooting.**

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL OR NON FATAL	SELF-INFLICTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Saturday March 28 3:15 am	21	Non Fatal	No	177 cal Pellet Handgun	0-10 yds	Non-hunting	No	The accident occurred in the residence of the shooter. The shooter thought that the firearm was unloaded and he pointed it at the victim and pulled the trigger. The victim was struck by the pellet on the right ear lobe. Both persons were under the influence of alcohol.
Monday March 30 6:00 pm	14	Non Fatal	No	22 cal. rifle	10-50 yds	Rabbits	No	The shooter took a 22 cal. rifle from his parent's cottage without their permission and went rabbit hunting with his 11 yr. old cousin. The shooter fell and the firearm discharged. The victim was struck by the bullet in his left leg.
Thursday April 2 2:00 pm	14	Non Fatal	No	22 cal. Rifle	0-10 yds	Sparrows	No	The shooter was shooting at sparrows and was using the victims shoulder to steady the rifle. The victim pushed the rifle off his shoulder as the shooter pulled the trigger. The victim was struck by the bullet in the little finger.
Friday April 17 4:30 pm	18	Non Fatal	No	22 cal. rifle	10-50 yds	Non-hunting	No	The shooter shot at a tin can on a small pond. The bullet ricocheted striking the victim in the right leg
Monday April 20 8:30 pm	17	Non Fatal	Yes	12 gauge shotgun	0-10 yds	Non-huntng	No	The shooter had rested the muzzle of his shotgun on a rock while standing with a companion. He had his finger on the trigger and the shotgun discharged. The pellets ricocheted striking both the shooter and the companion in their ankles.
Tuesday April 21 4:40 pm	16	Non Fatal	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Small birds	No	The shooter stumbled and the firearm discharged. He was struck by the bullet in the right foot.
Thursday May 7 11:30 pm	16	Non Fatal	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-hunting	No	Shooter was storing his firearm in the garage when the trigger caught on an object and discharged. The bullet struck the shooter in the upper chest area.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL OR NON FATAL	SELF-INFLICTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Saturday May 16 2:00 pm	23	Fatal	Yes	Shotgun	0-10 yds	Ducks	No	The shooter was stepping out of his boat when his shotgun discharged. The shooter was struck through his right side below the armpit. This accident was alcohol related.
Sunday June 21 11:30 pm	21	Non Fatal	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-hunting	No	The shooter and his companion were consuming alcohol in a campground. He was sitting in a friend's vehicle and fooling with a rifle. It discharged and the bullet struck him in the left shoulder.
Tuesday June 30 5:00 pm	14	Non Fatal	No	22 cal. 20 gauge over + under	0-10 yds	Chipmunk	No	The shooter and the victim were on the opposite sides of a large wood pile. The shooter shot at a chipmunk in the wood pile and struck the victim in the chest.
Monday July 20 11:15 am	16	Non Fatal	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-hunting	No	The shooter was removing a rifle from a rack in her bedroom when it discharged. She was struck in the lower abdomen and the bullet lodged in the pelvis.
Thursday September 3 4:00 pm	14	Non Fatal	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Grouse	No	The shooter was carrying the rifle with his finger on the trigger. His arm was bumped and the rifle discharged. The victim who was walking in front of him was struck by the bullet behind the left knee.
Saturday September 26 7:30 am	29	Non Fatal	No	12 gauge shotgun	50-100 yds	Ducks	Yes	The shooter fired at some ducks and the victim, who was out of sight of the shooter, was struck in the leg by a pellet.
Friday October 2 4:00 pm	16	Fatal	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-hunting	No	The shooter and his friends were "horseplaying" with a rifle in his residence. They noticed a friend walking up the driveway and they decided to play a joke on him by having the shooter pretend he was going to shoot himself. The shooter placed the muzzle on his forehead while his companions hid inside the residence. When the friend entered the residence the shooter pushed the trigger fataly wounding himself.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL OR NON FATAL	SELF-INFLICTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Saturday October 3 7:30 am	56	Non Fatal	No	.243 cal rifle	100 yds or more	Moose	No	The victim was standing in a clump of bushes calling moose by rattling some antlers. He was wearing dark clothing. The shooter mistook him for a moose and shot at him. He was struck in the arm and chest area.
Friday October 9 5:30 pm	37	Non Fatal	No	.410 cal shotgun	0-10 yds	Grouse and Rabbits	Yes	The trigger on the shooter's shotgun caught on an object and discharged. The victim was struck by pellets in the abdomen and left leg.
Sunday October 18 2:00 pm	17	Non Fatal	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Rabbits	No	The shooter was rabbit hunting when he tripped and fell. His firearm discharged and the bullet struck the shooter on the right bicep.
Monday October 19 3:30 pm	26	Non Fatal	Yes	Shotgun	0-10 yds	Ducks	Yes	The shooter fired at a flight of ducks and his shotgun exploded. He received pellet wounds to the face and on the left hand.
Saturday October 31 11:15 am	15 and 16	Non Fatal	No	Shotgun	50-100 yds	Grouse	Yes	The two shooters were walking on one side of a hedgerow and a bird flushed up towards the victim who was on the other side of the hedgerow. They both fired at the bird and the victim was struck by 4 pellets in the arm, leg and head.
Sunday November 1 5:10 pm	14	Non Fatal	No	177 cal. pellet rifle	0-10 yds	Non-hunting	Yes	The shooter was playing with a sawed-off pellet rifle. The rifle was discharged and shavings from the sawed-off barrel were blown into the victim's eye.
Sunday November 8 2:00 pm	14	Non Fatal	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Trapping	No	The shooter was setting his firearm on the ground when it discharged. The shooter was struck in the left forearm by the bullet.
Monday November 9 11:30 am	46	Non Fatal	Yes	30-30 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Skunks	No	The shooter was bending over to look under a grainery for skunks. His mitt caught the trigger and the rifle discharged. The bullet struck him in the foot.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL OR NON FATAL	SELF-INFLICTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Monday November 16 7:00 am	Unknown	Non Fatal	No	High powered rifle	50-100 yds	Deer	Unknown	Victim was wearing a blaze orange jacket and hat. He was standing against a bush line at early dawn. Someone shot at him from a road and the bullet struck him in the hand.
Tuesday November 24 1:15 pm	Unknown	Fatal	No	High powered rifle	100 yds or over	Deer	Unknown	Victim was a member of a party of five deer hunters. He was pushing bush for the other members at the time of the accident. When several deer came out of the bush the four members on point fired at them. The victim who was wearing blaze orange clothing was struck in the chest by one of the bullets. The victim couldn't be seen by the members due to the heavy bush. It appears that the bullet ricocheted.
Friday December 11 10:00 am	18	Non Fatal	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	The shooter had been drinking and was "horseplaying" with a rifle in his home. The rifle discharged and the bullet struck the shooter in the stomach.